

April 30, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT URGES COMMUNITY GROUPS TO INVITE A JUDGE TO SPEAK

As communities throughout Illinois and the nation commemorate Law Day on May 1, the Illinois Supreme Court is reminding community groups and service organizations that their members can learn more about the justice system by inviting an Illinois judge to speak before them.

The Illinois Supreme Court, on the recommendation of Chief Justice Moses W. Harrison II and in cooperation with the Illinois Judges Association, established the Illinois Judicial Speakers Bureau as an outreach program to increase awareness of the judicial system and its role in the community.

To date, about 125 judges from around the state have offered to volunteer their time as speakers. They are available to address various community groups and speak on virtually any topic related to the administration of justice; but they can't give legal advice.

"Our state's judicial system is a multifaceted organization whose many and varied operations affect virtually every aspect of our society," said Chief Justice Harrison. "The Illinois Judicial Speakers Bureau was designed to educate citizens throughout the state regarding the critical roles played by judges and the courts in everyday life."

"We look forward to being invited to speak before their group," said Circuit Court Judge Stuart A. Nudelman, president of the Illinois Judges Association. "There are a variety of topics judges can talk about. We think it's important that people meet their judges, learn how the judges serve the community and how the legal and justice system works."

To request a speaker, or for more information about the Judicial Speakers Bureau, contact Dawn M. Frison, assistant to the press secretary for the Illinois Supreme Court at (312) 793-0870; or e-mail to dfrison@court.state.il.us. The Speakers Bureau will also help in filling requests for the "Judges in the Classroom" program designed by the Illinois Judges Association to provide students with the opportunity to hear firsthand from a judge how the judicial system works.